

CLAIMS:

1. The method of communicating between a host computer and a remote terminal over a data network comprising the steps of:

establishing a first communication session between said terminal and a communications server;

downloading, from said server to said terminal, communications software for communicating between said terminal and said host;

utilizing said communications software to implement a second communications session between said terminal and said host.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of specifying, during said first communications session, which communications software is desired to be downloaded.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving, during said second communications session, information from said host at said terminal;

decoding the information at said terminal;

sending the decoded information to said server over said network;

in response to said step of sending, transmitting from said server to said terminal, presentation information specifying how information received from said host at said NC terminal should be presented to a user of said terminal.

4. The method of Claim 3 further comprising:

identifying, at said terminal, cursor position and screen information, said information being based upon which screen is being displayed and a position on that screen of a cursor;

5 assembling, at said terminal, a data structure indicative of said cursor position and screen information;

transmitting said data structure to said server; and conveying, in response to said step of transmitting, context sensitive display information from said server to said terminal.

10

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said terminal is an NC terminal.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said context sensitive display information is a list of available choices for a field.

15